

The Town of Scituate currently has 41 known cases of residents infected with COVID19. Of these, 17 have already cleared the recommended quarantine period. Unfortunately, one elderly gentleman has passed away from complications of COVID19. Our thoughts are with his family and all those suffering from this virus.

It is expected that these numbers will increase as the Commonwealth approaches the anticipated “surge” period over the next two weeks. Please continue to stay at home as much as possible during this critical time. If you do go out, practice social distancing to keep these numbers down in our community. The State now recommends that, if you go out, please wear a mask to protect yourself and others.

The town website ([www.scituatema.org](http://www.scituatema.org)) will soon have all COVID19-related information linked to the red banner on the home page. This will include information from the Board of Health, video and written bi-weekly updates, and links to local business and assistance resources.

If you have any questions about town activities not answered on the website, or need to speak to anyone about town business, please call 781-545-8740 or go to the website and email/phone the specific department you need information from. Town employees are working on reduced staffing, but all emails and phone lines are monitored and someone will get back to you as quickly as possible.

Because of the emergency, the Town Meeting is now delayed until May 11, 2020. Town elections are scheduled for June 13, 2020. These dates will be reviewed as needed.

The Board of Selectmen will continue to meet virtually every two weeks to ensure that day-to-day business of the town can move forward. No substantive decisions will be made, unless there is an emergency, until the residents can more fully participate. The State has approved an emergency order which now allows local business to provide sealed alcohol with take-out orders. This will assist them in reducing stock and increasing revenue. The State has also extended deadlines for permit approval and other timed responses to extend past the end of the state of emergency.

Ongoing construction projects must comply with state requirements for safety during the COVID19 emergency. If they can provide safe conditions, they may continue to work. The Town is awaiting further guidance concerning our two major projects -- the Senior Center and Athletic Fields -- regarding compliance.

Widow's Walk Golf Course has been reopened for walking on the paths or the roughs to help ease congestion in other areas of town. No pets are allowed. You may have a wonderful animal, but the course needs to be protected for spring opening. Please be mindful of distancing from course staff and equipment.

If you are driving around, we strongly urge everyone to slow down. As the weather improves, so will foot and bicycle traffic. Protect your community.

Please note that flushable wipes ARE NOT FLUSHABLE! The town experienced a significant blockage this week because these materials clogged our system.

If you would need assistance -- whether someone to go to the store for you, need a mask, or other help, please go to [www.sandshelps.org](http://www.sandshelps.org) and register your request. There are additional resources for Veterans that can also be accessed by registering there.

To support local businesses, please go to [www.scituatechamber.org](http://www.scituatechamber.org) for a list of contact-less services. Also, buying local gift cards online or over the phone is a great way to support our community.

